

Remarks/Arguments

Initially, Applicant would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Further, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indicating that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter (see page 10 of the Official Action).

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-8 and 10 will have been amended. Claims 1-10 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objection and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Claim Objections

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 for containing informalities. In this regard, Applicant submits that claim 7 has been amended, where appropriate, in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the objection to claim 7 is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn

Listing of the rejections

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by BENZ (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0248053);

the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over BENZ in view of AIGNER (U.S. Patent No. 5,373,695); and

the Examiner rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over BENZ in view of AIGNER, and further in view of SATTINGER et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0248053).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended solely in order to expedite prosecution of the present invention.

In this regard, Applicant submits that none of the applied prior art, alone or in any properly reasoned combination, discloses at least the combination of features generally recited in independent claim 1.

In particular, claim 1 generally set forth a system for damping thermo-acoustic instability in a combustor including, inter alia, a plurality of Helmholtz resonators comprising a casing defining a pre-set volume therein and a neck for hydraulic connection between the pre-set volume and the combustion chamber; the neck connected to one side of the combustion chamber distant from the front upstream portion of the combustion chamber provided with the at least one burner, and at least one of the plurality Helmholtz resonators is radially spaced from at least another of the plurality of Helmholtz resonators in the circumferential direction and axially spaced from at least another of the plurality of Helmholtz resonators in the longitudinal direction.

In setting forth the rejections, the Examiner apparently asserts that BENZ discloses the positioning of the presently claimed Helmholtz resonators (see page 4, lines 7-12 of the Official Action).

Contrary to the Examiner's apparent assertions, Applicant submits that the presently claimed invention is very different structurally from the device of BENZ.

More specifically, Applicant submits that Figure 4 of BENZ clearly shows the purported resonators being aligned in the radial direction.

Thus, Applicant submits that BENZ does not disclose at least the presently claimed at least one of the plurality Helmholtz resonators being radially spaced from at least another of the plurality of Helmholtz resonators in the circumferential direction and axially spaced from at least the another of the plurality of Helmholtz resonators in the longitudinal direction, as recited in claim 1.

Further, Applicant submits that support for the aforementioned feature can be implicitly found in at least page 9, lines 16-20 of the present disclosure, which states that the resonators are mounted in positions that are asymmetrical with respect to one another *both* in the radial direction and the axial direction (with respect to the axis of symmetry).

Additionally, Applicant submits that AIGNER and SATTINGER do not disclose anything which can reasonably be considered to supply the deficiencies of BENZ for reasons discussed *supra*.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejections of claims 1-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the arguments herein, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-10, Applicant asserts that these claims are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claim 1 which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

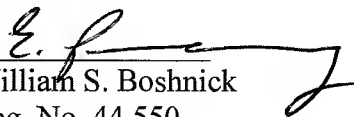
SUMMARY

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicant has argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant submits that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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